The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Morale is three-fourths and everything else is of minor importance.—Napoleon.

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FREEDOM TO CEASE WORK IS NOT MERE THEORY

The anti-union Los Angeles Times is angry because the Musicians' Union of that city decided that no member shall be employed by a broadcast station that employs non-union musicians.

The decision, says the Times, "means that many independent musicians will be deprived of a large part of their means of livelihood.

This is another way of saying that union musicians have not the right to refuse to work for any reason satisfactory to themselves.

The United States Supreme Court has made a contrary ruling in the Indiana stone cutters' case, and thereby supports the Times, but this decision, which Justice Brandeis has called "involuntary servitude," is not the final word. Courts find ways to respond to enlightened public opinion.

If workers are free men they control their labor power. If this power—that is inseparably linked with man—can be regulated, as is a commodity or a corporation that has been created by the state, the worker is not free.

The fact that others may be inconvenienced by the exercise of this right does not affect the principle of freedom.

A nation can not profess freedom and practice tyranny.

If workers must give their labor lest others be inconvenienced, where is the difference between this and Mussolini's system that outlaws strikes and sets wages by compulsory arbitration?

Human rights can not be subjected to counting room standards. The difference between the serf and the free man is that the latter can cease employment. He can refuse to serve. He does not have to ask others. He must not be a victim of what the Montana Supreme Court has termed "judicial legerdemain" that acknowledges this right in theory and denies it in practice.

The human being is not an appendage of the state or of business—at least not in America.

By driving home this point, organized labor will create a public opinion that conforms with the Declaration of Independence and which will then be reflexed by judges, editors and others who dare not publicly class labor as a commodity but who subconsciously cling to this serf ideal.

WILL UNION LABEL BE FOUGHT NEXT?

New York, May 14.—The Electrical World hints that the next attack on organized labor will attempt to outlaw the union label. This spokesman for employing interests says: "Recent Supreme Court decisions under the Sherman anti-trust law offer a precedent for not recognizing the efforts of labor to put the union label on all products."

Counsel for electrical manufacturers, it is stated, hold that any union label agreement that applies to electrical appliances "would constitute a violation of the anti-trust laws by both the unions and the contractors participating therein, and that contractors who connive or acquiesce would be equally responsible under the law notwithstanding the fact that they might not be the moving parties. The belief has been expressed by several men in the industry that should it become established that electrical fixtures must bear a union label, there will be no limit to the number of commodities which will fall under the same ban.

The significance of the above statement lies in the fact that the use of the union label by organized electrical workers affects the General Electric Company. This powerful trust is notoriously anti-union and may be laying a groundwork for calling on the courts to protect its autocratic control of employes.

LOCKOUTS NOT NECESSARY

The British government amended its anti-strike bill by making it unlawful for employers to lock out employes.

The amendment is meaningless. The purpose of a lockout is to make collective action impossible. If it is illegal to cease work, the employer has no need for the lockout.

Mussolini has made the same gesture in Italy. He outlaws strikes and sets wages by compulsory arbitration. Then he tells employers they can not resort to the lockout.

This appeals to the unthinking, but employers understand.

ANOTHER UPSET FOR "ECONOMISTS"

"Hand-to-mouth" buying by business men is another reversal that the World War handed the clock-sure type of economist.

Under this system merchants do not carry large stocks that are often bought at peak prices and which mean a loss when prices decline.

Through closely-knit organizations the business man knows economic conditions. He is informed on industrial tendencies and prospects. This makes it unnecessary for him to tie up his resources in stocks that later may be impossible to move.

The new system is of interest to workers because it again emphasizes that so-called "economic laws" are not fixed.

It is not the first time dogmatic economists have been forced to retreat. They long since abandoned their "iron law of wages" and their opposition to higher wages and shorter hours.

Their hardest jolt was when monopolists shattered their favorite war cry: "The immutable law of supply and demand."

Despite these reverses, this type of economist would have workers believe they possess a divining rod or other occult power.

BOULDER DAM PROJECT OPPOSED BY BUSINESS

Washington, May 14.—The Boulder Dam project was opposed at the annual meeting of the United States Chamber of Commerce.

Government engineers favor the dam as a protection to lives and property in the Imperial Valley of California, but the business men applauded one speaker when he said the proposal is "absolutely contrary to American ideals and subversive to American institutions."

The Boulder Dam bill would have passed the last Congress but for the power trust, which insists that this by-product be turned over to private interests. The electrical trust does not want government competition.

The same opposition is expressed in the case of Muscle Shoals and Governor Al Smith's plan that the water power of the Niagara River be saved to the people of New York.

REJECT ARBITRATION; WOULD CONTROL BOARD

Chicago, May 14.—Organized business men in this State are attempting to mold public opinion against the wage movement of conductors and trainmen on western railroads.

The question is to be passed upon by an arbitration board, but the business men ignore every fact that may be developed before a decision is reached.

The business men are represented by the Chicago Association of Commerce and the Illinois Manufacturers' Association. Both organizations have a record of 100 per cent opposition to remedial suggestions by organized wage workers.

EXTENDS HALF-HOLIDAYS

Washington, May 14.—The Saturday half-holidays period has been extended by President Coolidge to all executive order calls for half-holidays for all federal employes from the first Saturday of June until the last Saturday of September. Previously these half-holidays were from the second Saturday in June to the second Saturday in September.

Wm. Green, A. F. of L. president, headed a delegation of trade unionists who called on the President to urge the order.

WILL RECALL LUDLOW

Denver, May 14.—Memorial services will be held at the Ludlow monument on Sunday, May 22, to commemorate the memory of union miners, their wives and children who were shot and burned to death by armed guards who fired on the Ludlow tent colony 12 years ago. Thirty-three lives were lost. The miners were on strike against the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company.

STRONG-ARM METHODS ABANDONED IN CHINA

Washington, May 14.—Cable dispatches from London indicate that the British government has abandoned its strong-arm methods against the Chinese Nationalist government.

Following the riot at Nanking, the United States and other world powers forwarded a joint demand that China make apologies and reparations. Eugene Chen, Cantonese foreign minister, replied that the request would be complied with if a board of investigation found that the Nationalist Chinese were responsible. The United States government refused to join in punitive measures, and now Sir Austen Chamberlain, British Foreign Secretary, states in the House of Commons:

"Moderation of the powers in dealing with the Nanking incidents is largely inspired by a desire not to embarrass this new Nationalist government, in course of formation at Nanking, in its task of introducing order."

Press cables state that Conservative die-hards are angry at this policy statement, which indicates that reason may supplant force in the Far East.

PROFESSORS OF LAW URGE SACCO INQUIRY

New York, May 14.—Twenty-nine law professors of Columbia and Yale Universities and the University of Kansas have petitioned Governor Fuller of Massachusetts to appoint a commission of inquiry in the Sacco-Vanzetti case.

The petition states that 32 professors of universities in eight other states, who did not have time to read and approve the wording of the petition, authorized the use of their names as concurring in its general purpose.

The petition points out that the Supreme Court of Massachusetts has not passed upon the facts and that only a single judge (Thayer, who tried the accused,) passed on the credibility of new evidence.

WASTE ELIMINATION OFFSETS WAGE GAINS

New York, May 14.—Recent wage gains to railroad labor has not verified jaunty predictions of those who opposed their enactment.

Reports from various trunk lines show that many wastes have been eliminated and that claims of these workers are sustained.

FISHERMEN GAIN

San Francisco, May 14.—The Alaska Fishermen's Union, with headquarters in this city, signed a three-year agreement with the Alaska Packers' Association. Improved work conditions have been secured.

COMPENSATION FAVORED

Tallahassee, Fla., May 14.—The workmen's compensation bill has been reported favorably by a committee of the lower house.

OREGON POPULAR LAW SET ASIDE BY JUDGE

Portland, Ore., May 14.—A law, approved by a majority vote of 80,000 in a state-wide referendum, means nothing to Federal Judge McNary.

The law abolished fish wheels and traps, and is intended to stop the fish trust from destroying that industry.

The fish barons opposed the referendum, and when defeated found a friend in the federal judge. He has temporarily set aside the act.

Vote Hunting Deadens Labor Spirit; Australian Workers Pay High Price

Sydney, New South Wales, May 14. —In discussing the defeat of the South Australian Labor government at the last general election, the Australian Worker says there is a tendency to forget the missionary phase of the labor movement "and become too much absorbed in the mere game of politics."

"In the days before labor reached office, when it appeared to have no chance of ever reaching office, it promulgated the doctrine of economic justice with an impetuous ardor. Those were the days in which converts came flocking to its banner. Those were the days in which the hearts of men and women were stirred as by a great revelation. And their zeal was quickened by fertilizing ideas.

"The solid, enduring core of the Australian labor movement was created during that period. It gives us the vote on which we can always rely.

"But those to themselves are not sufficiently numerous to smash through the ranks of labor's enemies and seize the parliamentary citadel. They are a strong enough, however, to attract others, and that is what happened when first the workers swept the capitalistic hosts before them and labor governments sprang into being.

"It was marvelous. It was intoxicating. Success dazzled the eyes and took away the breath. The consummation of labor's ideal seemed close at hand. But when the first wonder and enthusiasm had exhausted their force, there came the difficulties and complications of office, and these soon occupied the major portion of labor's time.

"With spoils to distribute, intrigue and selfishness also began to make their ugly presence felt and the spirit of brotherhood suffered a decided slump.

"The propagation of an idealistic gospel soon faded to an end. The fiery cross was left for the dust to gather upon it. Labor had taken in hand in the game of politics, and needed all its wits for tricks, tactics and strategems. And that is the reason that it has lost the advantage it had gained. It could not hold the votes that came to it from a host of disillusioned workers and its campaign of conversion had slackened to the point of ineffectiveness.

"The labor movement of Australia has lost much of its initial fire. It has lost the spirit that led to the high pitch of fervor. Nor was it desirable that it should. The wildness of the spirit of enthusiasm had to be modified. The necessities of everyday contact with the multitude demanded a more sober earnestness.

"But labor has exceeded the requirements of the case. Success has weakened its fibre. Its ardor has declined to caution and even timidity. It descends to the level of the voter, instead of lifting up the voter to its level. Too often the spirit of compromise takes precedence of principle."

NATION DEPENDS ON HIGH WAGES TO CONTINUE MASS PRODUCTION

Chapel, N. C., May 14.—More leisure and more wages must be given the masses in order to increase their consumer power, declared Edward A. Filene, Boston business man, at a meeting of educators held under the auspices of the University of North Carolina.

Mr. Filene said that mass production, through improved machinery and scientific methods, is making it possible for the average man to turn out sufficient products and make a good living for himself and family under a six-hour "or perhaps a five-hour day."

"Mass production can not live without masses of consumers," he said. "Mass production can not be successful unless masses of people buy its products; that is, unless the masses of people have adequate buying power to absorb the masses of commodities produced.

"It is equally clear that large buying power among the masses depends on high wages and salaries. Accordingly mass production implies the definite adoption of the policy of paying high wages and high salaries. Fortunately the difference between high and low wages is negligible under mass production, where a worker produces hundreds of parts or hundreds of articles a day, and, therefore, the additional wage charge per piece is very small.

"Likewise total costs, proportionately to current wages, are lowest under this system, for successful mass production has demonstrated irrefutably that the greatest total profit to producers comes from the smallest profit per piece; that is, that it pays to sell the commodities at the lowest possible practicable price, thereby assuring maximum sales, instead of getting as much profit possible per piece.

"In other words, by paying high wages and maintaining low prices, mass production creates its own consumers—creates the wide markets which are necessary to its success and growth.

"Finally, mass production, with its low costs and prices, is able to sell profitably in foreign markets the surpluses it produces, thus meeting the national economic necessity for such exportation."

INJUNCTION JUDGE IGNORES CONTRACT

Chicago, May 14.—Federal Judge Wilkerson's injunction against locked-out employes of the White Printing House, and his disregard for a contract that does not expire for two years, again calls attention to the shameless use of equity powers by courts.

The White concern is a Delaware corporation. The management ignored its contract, replaced the 44-hour week with the 48-hour week and declared for the anti-union shop. When employes protested against this flagrant violation of a written pledge they were enjoined by Judge Wilkerson.

This court issued the nation-wide injunction against shop men in 1922 at the request of Attorney General Daugherty.

There are several injunction judges in Cook county, but unionists are of opinion that these jurists believed it unwise, in view of the judicial election next month, to make the injunction plea of the White management a State case. It would be necessary to pay attention to the injunction limitation law recently passed by the Illinois legislature, but which has been disregarded by some of these jurists.

DRAMATISTS' GUILD MAY JOIN A. F. OF L.

New York, May 14.—The Dramatists' Guild has instructed Arthur Richman, president, to appoint a committee to "consider the advisability" of affiliating with the American Federation of Labor. The guild includes in its membership practically all the playwrights in the country and has a union-shop agreement with producers.

REMEDY FOR CRIME IS SOUGHT IN VAIN

New York, May 14.—No "general panacea" for crime has been discovered, but several preventive and remedial agencies were recommended by speakers who addressed the annual New York City Conference of Charities and Correction.

In urging a living wage, Rev. William A. Guiney said: "Crime is the price we must pay for living in tremendously congested areas filled with temptations."

Miss Jane Hoey of the New York State Crimme Commission said the commission's report to New York City areas had disclosed that bad housing, overcrowding, the forcing of children to play in the streets and of youth to seek its recreation in poolrooms and motion picture theaters contributed to juvenile delinquency.

CONVICT LABOR ISSUE TO BE FORCED BY UNIONS

Memphis, Tenn., May 14.—Organized labor will make the convict labor question a feature of the next gubernatorial campaign. The State Federation of Labor convention declared that this evil is detrimental to free labor and should be abolished.

BRUCE M'RAE PASSES ON

New York, May 14.—Bruce McRae, one of America's best known actors, is dead after an operation for ulcers. He was vice president of the Actors' Equity Association, affiliated to the A. F. of L. During the Equity strike, a few years ago, which involved all New York theaters, he took a prominent part.

PAINTERS SUSPEND WORK

Allentown, Pa., May 14.—Organized painters suspended work when a wage increase was refused. The men ask $1.12 an hour, an increase of 12 cents.

POPULAR RULE IS WEAKENED BY ONE-MAN CONTROL PLANS

Cleveland, May 14.—"The proposal that judges be appointed by the Governor is another effort to take government out of the hands of the people," says Charles Smith, business representative of the local Building Trades Council, writing in the Cleveland Citizen.

Another system, observable in this city, is the city manager form of government.

"This government," says Mr. Smith, "virtually sets up the kind of a dictatorship that certain interests believe to be the ideal kind of government for the United States. The city manager form of government is not one in which the people have a direct vote. It is one of those governments by indirection; the people elect a city council which names a city manager, who is the servant of the city council and not of the people. The people have no voice in electing the manager. He is usually the choice of political leaders who control the city council.

"Speakers travel all over the country telling those who are willing to listen that the people are no longer fit to elect their own officials and that government has outgrown them. Who pays these speakers? Is their expense fund mending? A group of lawyers, probably.

"By the appointive route, judges would become political footballs. It would be hard to find a Governor who would appoint a judge merely on his judicial competence. More often he would pick a man because of some political influence the applicant might exert."

AUTOS LEAD R. R.'S IN LABOR AND CAPITAL

Hot Springs, Ark., May 14.—The auto industry leads railroads in the number of workers employed and in capital invested, and ranks first in the national industries, according to a report to the American Bankers' Association.

"The capital invested in motor vehicles and highways improved primarily for motor vehicle use," the report says, "is in excess of the total invested in railroads. Automotive and allied industries have on their pay rolls about 8 per cent of all persons gainfully employed in the United States. In repair shops, public garages, professional chauffeurs and truck drivers the total is greater than for railroad workers of all classes."

PAY LAW ILLEGAL

Albany, N. Y., May 14.—The Statewide law designed to grant women school teachers equal pay for equal work with men teachers was invalidated so far as Syracuse women teachers are concerned, in a decision by the Court of Appeals.

Attorneys for the Syracuse Board of Education claimed that the law was a violation of home rule principles.

BRITISH WORKERS ARE UNITED AGAINST TORY ANTI-UNIONISM

What the "Blacklegs' Charter" Will Do

If the pending anti-trade union bill passes in England, and the courts declare a strike illegal (and no union can know beforehand if they will), the protection of the Trades Disputes Act is automatically withdrawn.

This means that any employer whose employes have struck can sue the union for damages.

The Taff Vale decision, against which the trade unions fought for five years, is then restored in all its rigor. That single case cost railway workers $210,000.

If the bill is approved a single strike in any large industry that is declared illegal will probably bankrupt the union concerned. There will be no money left for benefits and the strength of the union will be undermined.

The government is counting on this to prevent any strikes by holding over the unions' heads the threat of destruction.

London, England, May 14.—Despite a nation-wide protest by organized labor and sympathizers, the government's anti-trade union bill passed the second reading in the House of Commons.

The bill as amended makes illegal any strike "designed or calculated to coerce the government either directly or by inflicting hardship upon the community."

Civil employes must sever all connection with the trade union movement, and political activities of organized labor will be subject to drastic regulations.

During the past week great labor demonstrations against "the Blacklegs' Charter" has been held throughout Great Britain.

Winston Churchill, a leader of the government forces, indicated that these demonstrations will not affect the passage of the bill. At a meeting of 10,000 Conservatives in this city he revamped all the familiar anti-union cries, and insisted that the nation is threatened by "a power which demands a different set of loyalties from those which are due the state." As the meeting was approved by Premier Baldwin, the struggle indicates that for the present all talk about "better understandings between capital and labor" is ended.

Every effort is made to create the opinion that last year's national strike is behind the bill. The workers insist that this claim is window dressing. They show that within the past seven years 11 attacks have been made on organized labor by Conservatives in the House of Commons.

Trade unionists claim that the pending legislation will only make matters worse. James H. Thomas, secretary of the National Union of Railway Men, declared on the floor of the House of Commons that anyone who believes the bill will stop strikes when working standards are threatened is living in fool's paradise.

SOUTHERN UNIONISTS OPPOSE CHILD LABOR

Memphis, Tenn., May 14.—In an address to the Tennessee State Federation of Labor convention, Secretary Thackerson of the Arkansas State Federation of Labor thrilled the delegates with his appeal to protect child and women labor.

"The chivalry of the South," he said, "faces a severe test the next 10 years in protecting women and child workers from exploitation by textile mills that are lured to the cotton States by cheap labor and low taxes.

"Two textile mills recently have located in Arkansas. Deplorable conditions are the result. Women and children work 10½ hours a day for a weekly wage of from $2 to $7. More establishments are moving to the south. Southern women and children can only look to organized labor to protect them from conditions that have always characterized the mill toilers of New England."

PUBLIC SHOULD OWN NATURAL RESOURCES

Memphis, Tenn., May 14.—Organized labor in this State does not favor private ownership of natural resources. At the State Federation of Labor convention in this city, the trade unionists declared:

"The natural resources of America are the property of the citizenship. Efforts by any combination to monopolize these resources should be resisted by every patriotic critizen. Attempts of the power trusts to secure control for private profit of the State's vast water resources constitute a menace to future citizenship. Ownership of such resources should be safeguarded by our public officials and the interests of the public held paramount."

PLUMBERS SUSPEND WORK

Salem, Ore., May 14.—Plumbers have suspended work, following a refusal of employers to raise wages. The present rate is $1 a day.

STATE UNIONS TO MEET

Wichita Falls, Texas, May 14.—The annual convention of the Texas State Federation of Labor will convene in this city on Monday, May 23.

CHILD LABOR MENACE IS NATIONAL PROBLEM

Washington, May 14.—Child labor is a menace to the future of our country, said William Green, president of the A. F. of L., in an address to the Child Welfare Association.

"The nation can not possess healthy children in a full and complete degree and at the same time permit industry to employ children," he said. "We can not have child health and child labor simultaneously. Child labor is a national problem, and requires the application of a national solution. It should be dealt with through the enactment of uniform legislation and this can only be done through the exercise of constitutional authority conferred upon Congress."

Mr. Green stated that more than 2,000,000 children between 10 and 15 years old are working for wages and between the ages of 10 and 18 at least 2,500,000 are wage earners. These estimated figures have increased, he said, since the United States Supreme Court declared the last Federal child labor law unconstitutional.

"Generally, loss of weight and an increase of sickness among children follow employment," he said. "We must find a way to regularize employment for adult wage earners so they may obtain an interrupted income sufficient to supply adequate and wholesome food for their children."

WOMEN'S WAGE IS LOW; PAUPER LINE REACHED

St. Paul, May 14.—The average weekly wage for women and boys in this state was $17.37 during 1925-26, according to the Industrial Commission of Minnesota.

Of the 33,784 women and boys covered by the report, 3,457 received less than $12 a week; 9,440 received $12 and under $15; 11,638 received $15 and under $20, while only 9,249 received $20 a week and over.

The Minneapolis Labor Review reminds its readers that "the report does not state to what extent the 33,784 wage earners invested their savings in stocks and bonds."

PEACE IN NICARAGUA UNDER FORCE THREAT

Washington, May 14.—Faced by the alternative of fighting the United States, rebel forces in Nicaragua have ceased opposition to the Diaz government. A special commissioner appointed by President Coolidge warned the liberals that if they did not surrender, sufficient marines would be landed in Nicaragua to force such action.

An election will be held next year under the supervision of the United States government.

NON-UNION MINE KILLS

Everettsville, W. Va., May 14.—Another disaster in one of West Virginia's notorious non-union mines has exacted a toll of nearly 100 lives. The property is owned by the New England Fuel and Transportation Company.

It is doubtful if the cause will ever be known, but these mines are invariably operated in defiance of State mining laws.

LAUNDRY WORKERS GAIN

Detroit, May 14.—The Laundry Workers' Union secured a one-year agreement and substantial wage increase.

GOVERNOR IS URGED TO APPOINT SACCO-VANZETTI REVIEW BOARD

Boston, May 14.—Several reliable persons have made affidavit that Judge Thayer discussed the Sacco-Vanzetti case with them when that trial was before his court. Judge Thayer is reported as having made references to the two men.

Prof. James P. Richardson of Dartmouth College recalled this incident when he and Judge Thayer were watching a football game:

The report says, "is in excess of the total invested in railroads. Automotive and allied industries have on their pay rolls about 8 per cent of all persons gainfully employed in the United States. In repair shops, public garages, professional chauffeurs and truck drivers the total is greater than for railroad workers of all classes."

"Speaking of great satisfaction at the outcome of the first trial and also at his own decisions on the bench in the case," he said, he showed animosity to these defendants and expressed hostility toward them in the course of any further proceeding." His language was such as to create at that time the definite conviction in my mind that if any further proceeding before Judge Thayer should become necessary he would be so strongly prejudiced against the defendants as to make it impossible for such proceeding to be really judicial."

The affidavits strengthen the charge that the defendants did not secure a fair trial and that a new trial should be granted. Governor Fuller is petitioned to appoint a commission of representative persons to review the case and make recommendations.

Friends of the accused emphasize the importance of an affidavit by Capt. William H. Proctor, who was head of the Massachusetts State police at the time Nicola Sacco and who was an expert witness for the prosecution. Proctor's affidavit declares that prior to the trial the prosecutor intimated he would not testify that the fatal bullet was fired from Sacco's revolver.

During the trial, says the affidavit, the prosecutor skirted around this point by asking Proctor for his opinion as to whether the bullet fired from the Sacco pistol, and Proctor gave a pre-arranged answer: "My opinion is that it is impossible to say that it was fired by that pistol." In Judge Thayer's charge to the jury he interpreted Proctor's answer as meaning that Proctor believed the bullet was fired from Sacco's gun.

Other evidence relates to one Roy Gould, a prisoner in the Old Colony Braintree crime from which Sacco and Vanzetti are convicted. A bandit bullet passed through Gould's coat. He was examined by the police and was taken to look at Sacco and Vanzetti, he declared he had seen neither in the bandit gang. Gould was not called as a witness by the prosecution and what he knew of the crime was withheld from the defense. Later Gould was accidentally discovered and he then made affidavit which formed the basis of a motion for a new trial. This, too, was denied by Judge Thayer.